

Page Denied

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

PLEASE CREDIT ANY QUOTES OR EXCERPTS FROM THIS NBC TELEVISION PROGRAM TO "YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW."

:-- -- -- -- --:
:HOLD FOR RELEASE:
:6:00 P.M., Sunday:
:September 28, 1958:
:-- -- -- -- --:

:-- -- -- -- --:
:HOLD FOR RELEASE:
:6:00 P.M., Sunday:
:September 28, 1958:
:-- -- -- -- --:

Y O U T H W A N T S

T O K N O W

Founded and Produced by Theodore Granik

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1958

YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW PRESENTS

VYATCHESLAV ELUTIN

MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, USSR

IRVING R. LEVINE

MODERATOR

THE ANNOUNCER: This is Moscow.

YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW, a Theodore Granik production, is here inquiring into important facets of Soviet life. Great stress is placed upon education at all levels, and here in Moscow is Lomonosov University, one of the great educational

institutions of the world. The hunger for knowledge is apparent everywhere.

Irving R. Levine, NBC Moscow Bureau Chief will introduce our guest.

MR. LEVINE: Dr. Vyatcheslav Elutin, Cabinet Minister for Higher Education in the Soviet Union, is our guest today on YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW.

Minister Elutin, our American students from Hollins College and the YMCA-YWCA, have many questions on the Soviet educational system.

Minister Elutin, it is a pleasure to have you with us today.

MINISTER ELUTIN: I am happy to be here today with my junior American colleagues and will be happy to answer all your questions.

QUESTION: Minister Elutin, we would like to know if the Russian students were permitted to study in the United States, do you think they would like to?

MINISTER ELUTIN: According to the agreement which we have with the United States, we are going to exchange not only teachers and professors, but students too. Our students are already getting ready to be your guests, and to come and study at your universities and colleges, and we are expecting your students over here.

QUESTION: How soon will this program go into operation?

MINISTER ELUTIN: This fall, most probably.

QUESTION: How many students are being exchanged,
Minister Elutin?

MINISTER ELUTIN: We are beginning with 20 on each side,
and if we find that this is a good thing, we are going to,
of course, expand the program.

QUESTION: What requirements are being placed on the
Russian students going to the United States?

MINISTER ELUTIN: First of all, it is their own personal
wish, and then an opportunity to get something interesting,
to acquire something interesting in the way of education in
the States, so that they will be able to study the subjects
which they are personally interested in and to be able to
study these subjects in the United States.

QUESTION: Will both Russian and American students
be absolutely at liberty to choose whatever subjects they
would like to pursue?

MINISTER ELUTIN: Well, since they will be going to
your universities, they will most probably have to
follow the curriculum which exists in the universities to
which they are going in the States, but of course they will
have the pick within the college or university to which
they are going in your country.

QUESTION: Will these students be living among other
Russian students, or will all the American students

have to live together in the university dormitories?

MINISTER ELUTIN: That is all up to you. I mean whether your students would like to live together in one dormitory or whether they would like to be together with the Soviet students. I am sure the Soviet students would be very happy and glad to invite your students to live with them, and I am sure with your students when they come, if they express the desire to live together with our students, we would get them into one dormitory.

QUESTION: Will expenses be paid by the respective governments?

MINISTER ELUTIN: Most probably we will be paying our students who will go to the United States a scholarship to pay for their expenses, but in all probability, this will depend on how both sides agree. Maybe the Soviet side will pay all the expenses of the American students to the Soviet Union and the American colleges will pay the expenses of the Soviet students in the States.

But this is a technical question which can be thrashed out when the time for it comes.

QUESTION: At what universities in the United States will the Soviet students study?

MINISTER ELUTIN: We haven't agreed finally as yet, but we hope they will be of the best. The very best.

QUESTION: Mr. Minister, we have been talking now about

finances for higher education. What about the financing of Soviet youth at Soviet universities? The question is, what percentage of the students are financed by the state in the Soviet universities?

MINISTER ELUTIN: If what you have in mind is the scholarship or stipends?

QUESTION: Yes.

MINISTER ELUTIN: Eighty-two percent of the students in the Soviet Union -- that is students of higher education establishments, get a scholarship or stipend, which is paid by the state. The range is anywhere from 300 to 700 rubles a month. That is the scholarship. It depends on the college they are in, it also depends on the year in which they are studying, but the range is anywhere from 300 to 700.

QUESTION: Upon what basis are the scholarship students selected?

MINISTER ELUTIN: Firstly, it all depends on who asks for it. The first consideration is who needs the scholarship. And then of course we take into consideration, well, how good they are in their studies. To get a scholarship you must have no 2's. To get a scholarship -- we have a system -- I am adding this myself -- where 5 is the highest mark. You must have no 2's in order to get a scholarship. Two is unsatisfactory. It is bad.

QUESTION: Say I lived just outside Moscow, not in

the city, per se, in the Soviet Union, how would I go about applying for such a scholarship to a university?

MINISTER ELUTIN: It does not depend on where you live, because, for instance, take the Moscow University. Half of the students at Moscow University are not Moscovites. They are either from other Soviet Republics or towns or they are from abroad.

QUESTION: Sir, do the people in the rural areas have an equal opportunity to enter the universities?

MINISTER ELUTIN: The opportunities aren't the same. Of course a lot depends on whether there is a university close at hand in a city near by. You can understand you can't open a university in every village, but of course if a student or future student wants to enter a college or university, he usually applies to the college or university that is nearest to his place of residence.

QUESTION: Sir, what foreign country provides the largest percentage of enrollment in Moscow University?

MINISTER ELUTIN: Most probably from China.

QUESTION: Is there any special preference given to these Chinese students?

MINISTER ELUTIN: What exactly do you mean by "preference"?

QUESTION: In getting into the institutions, due to languages?

MINISTER ELUTIN: There is no preference given to any country. It all depends on the number of applications, or the number of requests made by this or that country. We agreed with you to exchange 20 students last year. Maybe the time will come when we will agree to exchange 3,000.

QUESTION: I am very concerned, Mr. Minister, about when one chooses his major in a Soviet university. Could you elaborate a little bit on this for us?

MINISTER ELUTIN: The question is a complicated one. You ask how a student actually picks his profession. First of all, he chooses the establishment which he wants to enter. Therefore he already to a certain extent chooses the range of, well, specialities, professions, in which he may be -- might work in the future. Usually he finally picks his major on the third year of the course.

QUESTION: Mr. Minister, sometimes in America it is common for a student to change his field of study after four years in an institution of higher education. Is this possible in the Soviet Union?

MINISTER ELUTIN: It is possible to do this in the Soviet Union if he has reached his fourth year and he feels that, well, he just doesn't like his chosen field, he can, of course, switch over, but he must take into consideration the fact that this implies a great loss of time and energy.

QUESTION: Is it possible then for him to go into a

vocation different than the one he originally chose?

MINISTER ELUTIN: He can, of course, choose a totally different vocation from the one in which he started out, but that will entail a still greater loss of time and energy. And if he is going to change his mind very often, his life span may not be enough to get a higher education. So of course personal wishes must to a certain extent somehow be limited.

QUESTION: Are your textbooks standardized throughout the USSR, at an elementary level or secondary level? Not necessarily college work.

MINISTER ELUTIN: Our secondary school or high school, as you would call it, has standard text books throughout the Soviet Union. But you must take into consideration that the National Republics, of course, have these textbooks in their particular language.

In the colleges there is no standard textbook. There usually are two or three or sometimes four textbooks on the same subject. The professor naturally recommends the textbook which he thinks best, and the student picks the one which he feels like taken as a model or which he feels like studying, but of course usually the students pick the one that is smaller, or thinner.

QUESTION: Sir, would a professor in Moscow and Siberia teach the same course in more or less the same way and

follow the same outline?

MINISTER ELUTIN: The answer is Yes. Both in Moscow and in Siberia and in the National Republics more or less the same curriculum, more or less the same study plan is followed. Of course there are some minor changes taking into consideration various local conditions and so on, but the volume, the quality of the education received by the student you could say is uniform throughout.

QUESTION: Mr. Minister, are Western learned journals such as the American Medical Journal, or journals in other fields of study available for Soviet students in their studies in the university?

MINISTER ELUTIN: Absolutely. All our universities subscribe to the periodicals and magazines of the world, and if you were at the Moscow University, you probably have seen the amount of American periodicals there are in the library there.

QUESTION: Yes, I am told that is true. I was told by a student at the Moscow University yesterday that it is very difficult to get these journals. You must use them in the building only, or have two years of English before you can take them out of the building.

MINISTER ELUTIN: Of course there may be some technical difficulties. You must keep in mind the fact that we only subscribe to several copies and the number of people wanting

to read them is very much greater so of course it is more convenient that they read it within the walls of the university.

Of course I understand it would be preferable for the student to read the magazine over a cup of tea at home, but unfortunately this can't be done as yet.

QUESTION: Mr. Elutin, what percent of your universities and institutions are devoted solely to science?

MINISTER ELUTIN: All our universities are planned so that they prepare people who would work both in science and in the field of public education. We do not have the combined or complex universities of the type you have in the United States. The specialists in certain fields are trained at the various technical colleges.

QUESTION: Do you have any universities devoted to the study of humanities, with no science?

MINISTER ELUTIN: At all universities they study both the humanities and the sciences. There are no universities devoted solely to humanities or solely to science. They usually study subjects of physica, mathematica, chemistry, geology and so on.

QUESTION: Mr. Minister, in line with the previous question on art and culture, in general on literature, how is Western literature chosen and by whom is it chosen for study in Soviet universities in foreign languages?

MINISTER ELUTIN: When we draw up the study program for Western literature, we try to pick those authors which would reflect the real state of affairs or the real literature of this or that country. That is, the classical literature of that particular country, and also the best there there is in current literature, contemporary literature.

The authors are chosen by the professor who is teaching that particular subject.

QUESTION: Can you tell me then why as much attention is given to Jack London as to Edgar Allen Poe, who obviously is a more highly considered Western author?

MINISTER ELUTIN: We devote time both to Jack London and Edgar Allen Poe, but you must take into consideration the fact that Jack London is exceedingly popular with the youth here, and therefore we sort of put it that way and cater to the tastes of the youth, and we devote probably slightly more time to Jack London than to Edgar Allen Poe, but I assure you enough time is devoted to both.

QUESTION: Sir, at what educational level does the study of at least one foreign language become mandatory?

MINISTER ELUTIN: The study of foreign languages is compulsory and the study is started in the secondary school, in the high school, and studies are continued of a

foreign language all the way through college too. The student picks whether he wants to study English, French, German or any other language and studies of a foreign language are continued in practically all of the colleges and universities.

QUESTION: In considering a student for admission to a college or university, are any of the past activities other than academic activities considered?

MINISTER ELUTIN: In admitting students to colleges and universities, the thing that counts most, and the only thing that counts, is his knowledge. Students are accepted on a competitive basis and the one who gets the higher marks is admitted.

Of course in some technical colleges and in some agricultural colleges they do take into consideration the fact -- they would take into consideration the fact if a student had worked in that particular field before, he may get preference.

QUESTION: Sir, once a student had graduated from a university or institute, what jobs are available for him to select from, and just how does he make these selections?

MINISTER ELUTIN: Upon graduation a student is given a pick of several places where he can go to work and he usually chooses this or that organization which he prefers.

He is guaranteed a job after graduation. He has a pick of several that he is offered.

QUESTION: How much leisure time does the university student have to pursue hobbies and extra-curricular activities?

MINISTER ELUTIN: In the first couple of years, a student studies six hours a day and toward the end of his studies he studies four hours a day. That is at the universities.

The rest of the time he spends either in independent work or sports, leisure, or anything else.

MR. LEVINE: Minister Elutin, we are most grateful to you for providing the answers that YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW, and we thank you very much for being our guest today.

MINISTER ELUTIN: I would like to take this opportunity to convey greetings to the students and professors of the United States and convey our best wishes in their work, life and studies.

MR. LEVINE: Thank you.

This is one of a series of special programs from Soviet Russia. Join us again next week when another prominent Soviet personality will be interviewed by American students.

And now this is Irving R. Levine in Moscow, bidding you good bye in behalf of Theodore Granik.

ANNOUNCER: Your Moderator has been Irvind R. Levine, NBC's Bureau Chief in the Soviet Union.

**For reprints of today's discussion send ten cents to
Ransdell, Inc., Printers and Publishers, Washington 18,
D. C.**

**YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW is produced by its founder, Theodore
Granik. Assistant Producers, Sylvan Marshall and Julian
Bartolini.**

Film Director, Julian Bartolini.

**This program was filmed by Central Documentary Film
Studios in Moscow.**

For NBC, Doris Corwith.

**This program has been a public affairs presentation of
NBC News.**

- - - - -